

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Older Americans Month.

Every year since 1963, May has been a month to honor older Americans and highlight the value that senior citizens contribute to our communities.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2013 is "Older Americans: Connecting the Community." Older Americans are more active in community life than ever before and continue to make a significant impact across the region. Our seniors are mentoring the leaders of tomorrow, taking to heart the need for intergenerational learning to guide and inspire young minds.

In my Congressional District, we are lucky to have many older Americans embracing their role in building connections for the community. I want to recognize individuals who were recently honored by the Cayuga County Legislature as Senior Citizens of the Year: Trudy Buxenbaum of Aurora, Joni Lincoln and Anita Messina of Port Byron, and Betty Miller of Auburn.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of older Americans in New York's 24th District and applaud the Cayuga County Office for the Aging for its efforts to enhance the quality of life for seniors and encourage them to share their lifetime of experience with those around them.

COMMEMORATING THE FIVE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNLAW-
FUL IMPRISONMENT OF THE
IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í LEADERSHIP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Iranian Baha'i community, Iran's largest minority religion, and in commemoration of the five year anniversary of the unlawful imprisonment of its leadership, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or "friends of Iran."

In 2008 the Iranian regime arrested seven members of the Yaran-i-Iran on several trumped up charges including espionage, propaganda activities against the Islamic order, the establishment of an illegal administration, cooperating with Israel, sending secret documents outside the country, acting against the security of the country, and "corruption on earth." Fariba Kamalabadi, Jamaloddin Khanjani, Afif Naeimi, Saeid Rezaei, Mahvash Sabet, Behrouz Tavakkoli, and Vahid Tizfahm were "tried" in a series of closed-door sessions from January to August 2010, during which they were denied meaningful access to their lawyers.

Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and a member of the group's legal team, has said that there is no evidence against them to sustain the charges. Nonetheless, all seven were sentenced to 20 years in prison—the longest of all prisoners of conscience in Iran. The conditions within the prison where they

are being held are appalling. Their unfortunate circumstance reminds us of the intolerant character and brutality of the current Iranian regime, not only towards the Baha'i, but also the Iranian population as a whole.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate my support for the Baha'i community in calling for the immediate release of the Yaran-i-Iran members, as well as the release of all Iranian prisoners of conscience. I will continue to monitor this situation and hold Iran accountable for its abuse of its citizens.

HONORING MR. DANIEL SISTO

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and members of the New York delegation, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. LOWEY, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. MALONEY, Mr. MALONEY, Ms. MCCARTHY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REED, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, I would like to recognize Daniel Sisto of The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) for his many years of outstanding service to the cause of advancing health care delivery and improving the health of all New Yorkers.

Mr. Sisto is one of the nation's leading experts on health care public policy. Over the course of his nearly three decades as President of HANYS he has worked tirelessly to advance positive change in health care and achieve fairness and balance in resolving essential health policy issues. Because of his leadership, Mr. Sisto has helped establish HANYS as a valued, trusted voice on health policy matters in Washington, D.C., and in New York State.

Mr. Sisto has never been satisfied with the status quo. Recognizing the need to improve the health care delivery system to ensure efficient, high-quality care for all New Yorkers, he embraced patient-centered delivery system reform, worked to expand coverage, and has positioned HANYS as a leader in guiding quality improvement initiatives at hospitals and health systems across the state.

Under Mr. Sisto's guidance, HANYS has worked with hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care provider organizations in collaboratives, including the New York State Partnership for Patients, sharing best practices and facilitating the widespread adoption of proven clinical protocols to improve care delivery for all New Yorkers.

Mr. Sisto began his career in health care advocacy on Long Island, New York, as the Executive Vice President of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and former Deputy Director of the Nassau-Suffolk Health Systems Agency. Mr. Sisto holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing from St. John's University.

During his nearly three decades of distinguished work in health care, Mr. Sisto has repeatedly proven himself to be one of New York State's most respected advocates and

health care leaders and we, as New York's Delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING CHRISTIAN THORNTON BRYAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christian Thornton Bryan, who graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA on May 20, 2013.

Christian graduated with a degree in International Relations. He also participated in the ROTC program where he was selected to join the Lehigh Valley Steel Battalion. As a member of this Battalion, he competed in the 2nd Army ROTC Brigade's Ranger Challenge Competition and helped his team place third. He will now serve as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army and is assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington as an Infantry Platoon Leader.

Christian follows in the footsteps of his father, who serves as a Major in the U.S. Army Infantry. I am proud of this young man's decision to serve his country, and I know he will go above and beyond to uphold this duty.

I wish him the best of luck in the Army and in all his future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Christian Thornton Bryan.

RECOGNIZING SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS FOR ITS UNWAVERING
DEDICATION TO OUR TROOPS

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work and admirable service of a very special military support nonprofit in Texas—Support our Soldiers (SOS).

Led by Teresa Nelson, whose father served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, SOS was founded to care for our troops at home and abroad with support they might otherwise not receive. SOS volunteers often create custom boxes to meet the unique needs of troops. Just this week, a Marine unit serving overseas received a shipment of pillows after SOS learned they had none. Since its establishment in June 2011, over 17,000 pounds of food and supplies have been sent overseas to benefit more than 500 soldiers.

Texans are always looking for ways to give back to the men and women of the United States armed forces, and SOS provides a wide range of opportunities for its surrounding communities to serve those who wear the uniform. Teresa and her team host monthly meetings with sell-out crowds and organize community events across 6 cities in Tarrant and Johnson County to raise awareness, funds, and support for our troops. Beyond collecting and distributing material goods, SOS also works with ROTC programs and students to teach them the importance of patriotism.